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Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-seventh session

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session;

(b) Decides that the forty-eighth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission, as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations

   Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session
3. Demographic and social statistics:

   (a) Population and housing censuses;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics

   (b) Health statistics;

   Documentation

   Report of the World Health Organization

   (c) Social statistics;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Poverty statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Statistics of drugs and drug use;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(f) Education statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(g) Household surveys.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

4. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural and rural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(c) Business registers;

Documentation

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

(d) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

(e) International trade and economic globalization statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics

(f) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Tourism Organization

(g) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics

(h) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(i) Informal sector statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

(j) Short-term economic indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(k) Transformative agenda for official statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

5. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environmental-economic accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

6. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors

(d) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the World Bank

(e) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Documentation

Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Post-2015 Monitoring

(f) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) National quality assurance frameworks;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

(i) Big data;

Documentation

Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

(j) Regional statistical development in Europe;

Documentation

Report of the Economic Commission for Europe on regional statistical development in Europe

7. Programme questions (Statistics Division).

8. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

9. Report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council.

47/101
Global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and its support for the report of the Expert Group,[1] congratulated the Group on its accomplishment and commended its country-led, open, inclusive and transparent process in developing the global indicator framework;

(b) Asked the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to continue to work with the same level of focus, determination and ambition, maintaining the same level of inclusiveness and transparency of the process so far;

(c) Agreed on the revised terms of reference of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, as presented in annex I of its report;

(d) Agreed, as a practical starting point, with the proposed global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] as reflected in the list of indicators presented in annex IV of the report, subject to future technical refinement;

(e) Requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to take into account the specific proposals for refinements of the indicators made by Member States during the discussion;

(f) Recognized that the development of a robust and high-quality indicator framework is a technical process that will need to continue over time, including by making use of expertise in other related expert processes, and requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to provide its proposals and a plan for reviews of the indicator framework to the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session;

(g) Agreed with the proposed programme of work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group for the implementation of the global indicator framework, as described in section IV.B of the report, including in particular the establishment of the tier system for the indicators, to be discussed and agreed at the 3rd meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, to be held in Mexico City, and its proposed workplan for the coming year, as described in section IV.C of the report;

(h) Asked the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to report back to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on progress made in developing and improving the global indicators, especially on plans to develop methodologies for indicators in tier III, including for work on definitions and standards, to be agreed at the international level, with a view to guaranteeing international comparability;

[1] E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1.
[2] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(i) Emphasized that the global indicators proposed are intended for global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are not necessarily applicable to all national contexts, and that indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring will be developed at the regional and national levels;

(j) Emphasized that national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development and that national reviews are voluntary and country-led, will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities for all countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other countries in special situations;

(k) Stressed that the implementation of the indicator framework will present a challenge in many countries and that appropriate efforts to strengthen national statistical capacities will need to be made, including by ensuring coordination between the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (formerly the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Post-2015 Monitoring); also stressed, in accordance with resolution 2006/6 of the Economic and Social Council that capacity-building will be particularly important in developing countries, especially African countries, the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, the small island developing States and other countries in special situations;

(l) Agreed that the compilation of global indicators will be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized national official statistics provided by countries to the international statistical systems and that when other sources and methodologies are used, they will be reviewed and agreed by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner;

(m) Agreed that coordination between national statistical systems and international organizations is important, including in order to ensure transparency and efficiency in reporting and avoid duplication, and that attention should be given to strengthening the reporting capacity of poorer countries;

(n) Agreed that improving data disaggregation is fundamental for the full implementation of the indicator framework and to fully reflect the principles of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to ensure that no one is left behind, and stressed that efforts should be made to strengthen national capacities in that area and to develop the necessary statistical standards and tools, including by establishing a working group to work on data disaggregation as a subgroup of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group.

47/102
High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for its report[3] and the work conducted;

(b) Agreed in principle on the revised terms of reference of the High-level Group and asked the Bureau of the Statistical Commission to approve the final version, taking into account the comments received during the discussion, including the introduction of a member rotation system, as in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and recommended, in particular, that the terms of reference more clearly indicate the role of the High-level Group as the United Nations focal point for coordinating with partnerships (and with other agencies of the United Nations system) in addressing data and statistical gaps pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Expressed its appreciation to the Friends of the Chair group on broader measures of progress and agreed that the group has now completed its work;

(d) Welcomed the draft concept note for the organization of the United Nations World Forum on Sustainable Development Data and requested the High-level Group to finalize it in full consultation with all relevant stakeholders, in line with the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 agenda entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet";[4]

(e) Noted the draft outline of the global action plan for sustainable development data, which will provide a road map for the modernization and strengthening of statistical systems for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] to be developed further in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and taking into account existing regional road maps, and welcomed the opportunity to comment on it by the deadline of 22 March 2016;

(f) Endorsed the proposal to establish a joint subgroup of the High-level Group and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators tasked with developing a plan to address the immediate priorities, including statistical capacity-building and a financial framework for the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(g) Approved the proposed programme of work for the High-level Group and asked the group to report back to the Commission on its implementation at its forty-eighth session.

[3] E/CN.3/2016/3. Annex III of the report includes the revised terms of reference of the Group.
[4] A/69/700.
[5] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

47/103
Transformative agenda for official statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on a transformative agenda for official statistics;[6]

(b) Reconfirmed the necessity to modernize and strengthen statistical systems, at the national, regional and global levels, built around standards-based architecture, taking into account national specificities, in order to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of emerging users, and in particular to address the data demand in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[7] and related initiatives;

(c) Acknowledged the complementarity between the transformative agenda and various initiatives at national and regional level, in particular the good work done by the Economic Commission for Europe High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics, and suggested that the cross-cutting nature of a limited set of thematic areas for the modernization of statistical systems be further promoted and contribute to the formulation of a global action plan prepared by the High-level Group for Partnerships, Coordination, and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(d) Encouraged the completion of the series of regional conferences and the formulation of regional road maps for a transformative agenda through the moderation of the five thematic areas described in the report and by taking stock of existing programmes and activities for integrating and modernizing statistical systems in close consultation with member countries, regional commissions and agencies and other stakeholders, and by eventually mobilizing funds and sharing innovative technology, know-how and good practices;

(e) Recommended building upon the outcome of the "Friday seminar on emerging issues", held on 4 March 2016 on the theme "Towards better information systems for the 2030 Agenda", and related initiatives and programmes at the regional level, and emphasized that the transformation of statistical systems is more than a technical issue and therefore requests:

(i) High-level political commitment for access to and use of administrative sources, big data and geospatial information for statistical purposes through appropriate national legislative frameworks;

(ii) Partnerships with data providers and enhanced training of senior managers in handling the transformative processes based on a culture of performance and integrity;

(iii) Interregional collaboration in cross-cutting thematic areas by establishing global coordination mechanisms building on existing regional initiatives and programmes such as in the areas of integrated business statistics and modernization of statistical production processes;

[6] E/CN.3/2016/4.
[7] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(f) Requested a final report on the outcomes and recommendations from the regional conferences on a transformative agenda, to be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session;

(g) Agreed that the progress of the High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics be reported on regularly under this agenda item.

47/104
Big data for official statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics[8] and supported the outcome of the second International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics held in Abu Dhabi in 2015;

(b) Agreed generally with the conclusions of the 2015 global survey on big data strategies and projects, especially regarding the need for training and more pilot projects with participation from developing countries;

(c) Expressed its support for the proposed priorities of the work programme of the Global Working Group and requested that the Group:

(i) Complete the package of initiatives to improve access to proprietary data, such as big data, including increased political support at the national and international level, improved legislation and fostering of mutually beneficial partnerships with the data owners, while considering and maintaining the confidentiality of data;

(ii) Develop training courses, in cooperation with the European Statistical Training Programme and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and other training institutes and especially targeted at developing countries, on the topics of the processing and use of big data and of transparent methodologies and estimation methods for big data;

(iii) Undertake more pilot projects in the use of big data for official statistics, including those aimed at supporting the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and in this respect make use of the big data sandbox in Ireland;

(iv) Further develop the big data quality framework to ensure trust in the compiled official statistics;

(d) Requested that the following be added to the work programme:

(i) A review of web scraping of proprietary data;

(ii) Improvement of the Group website and the big data repository;

(iii) Advocacy of big data in developing countries;

(iv) Linking of the work of the Group to the work of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; to the transformative agenda; and to the

[8] E/CN.3/2016/6.

work of the Economic Commission for Europe High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics;

(e) Agreed that the national statistical offices play a key role in coordinating the use of big data for official statistics, a role that needs to be strengthened, especially if not regulated by existing laws governing official statistics.

47/105
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,[9] expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Working Group, the regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries to facilitate the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*[10] and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programme of work of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts for 2016;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made in resolving research issues related to the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*, noted the emergence of some conceptual issues that extend beyond the *System of National Accounts 2008* and requested the Working Group to report to the Commission on progress in addressing those issues, taking into consideration the integration of economic, social and environmental statistics and frameworks for measuring progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[11]

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the guidance provided on issues emerging from the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*, including the completion of several manuals, handbooks and guidelines that will facilitate its implementation and supporting statistics, and urged the Working Group to continue to give priority to practical guidance on issues that would facilitate the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*;

(d) Welcomed the progress made in implementing the *System of National Accounts 2008*, expressed concern at the relatively low level of compliance with the minimum required data set and urged countries to develop basic source data for the compilation of national accounts that are policy-relevant and fit for purpose, and in this regard called upon the global and regional agencies to provide a focused, funded and coordinated programme on integrated household and business statistics, in support of the compilation of national accounts;

(e) Recognized the needs of countries, especially small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and least developed countries, for continued statistical capacity-building for the implementation of national accounts, based on an integrated statistics programme using multi-source and multi-mode statistics;

(f) Noted the progress of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) data transmission mechanism for national accounts, and recognized that

[9] E/CN.3/2016/7.
[10] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29.
[11] See General Assembly resolution 70/11.

the implementation of the SDMX technology by countries will facilitate data transmission and thereby significantly reduce the response burden in submitting data to international organizations.

47/106
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting in advocating the importance of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), advancing its implementation and developing documents in support of its implementation;

(b) Requested that the Committee of Experts continue to contribute to the development of metadata for relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators to ensure consistency with SEEA, and encouraged the Committee to support its implementation in countries;

(c) Noted the importance of developing and strengthening basic environment statistics to compile environmental-economic accounts;

(d) Noted also the importance of capacity-building in national accounts as an essential element for the compilation of environmental-economic accounts;

(e) Urged the Committee of Experts to scale up its implementation activities based on an updated implementation strategy, including developing in-depth courses on SEEA modules at the global, regional and national levels, finalizing core accounts and associated technical notes on selected SEEA modules and advancing the research agenda of the SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting;

(f) Agreed in principle with the implementation strategy, urged the Committee of Experts to finalize its work on coordination and partnerships at the global, regional and national levels to support the implementation, including the compilation of SEEA-coherent data based on existing international databases, and requested that the Committee of Experts take into account existing inter-agency mechanisms for coordination in its consideration of the establishment of an appropriate mechanism and also take into account the importance of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013) in order to provide source statistics for SEEA;

(g) Requested the Committee of Experts to finalize the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-Energy) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA-Agriculture) with urgency, given their importance for the implementation of energy accounts and agriculture, forest and fisheries accounts in support of the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraged their expedient implementation in countries.

47/107
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the final report of the Friends of the Chair group on the evaluation of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme[12] and expressed appreciation to the members of the group and the co-chairs for their work on the comprehensive evaluation of the 2011 round;

(b) Expressed its support for the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair group, contained in section V.A of the report, that the International Comparison Programme become a permanent element of the global statistical programme and that it be conducted at more frequent intervals;

(c) Agreed with the proposal to adopt a rolling benchmark approach of surveys to be spread over a three-year cycle, starting in 2017, which would allow flexibility in conducting the surveys according to the specific conditions of the participating countries, and supported the objective of producing results with the possibility of extrapolating the rolling survey data;

(d) Endorsed the strengthening of the governance structure of the International Comparison Programme, consisting of the Governing Board, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group and the Technical Advisory Task Force, to be established initially as proposed in the report, to ensure efficient functioning and balanced representation of countries and coordinating agencies in the governing bodies;

(e) Welcomed and supported the proposal to establish the Global Office as a permanent team at the World Bank, responsible for the global coordination, data validation and calculation of global results and related day-to day organizational activities;

(f) Agreed that for the 2017 cycle no major changes in the methodology should be introduced and that a research agenda, to be developed and undertaken by the Technical Advisory Task Force, should focus on methodological improvements to be considered for future comparison cycles;

(g) Emphasized the need to link the capacity-building activities of the International Comparison Programme with efforts to enhance statistical capacity for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(h) Suggested exploring the closer alignment of International Comparison Programme price surveys with consumer price index compilation by countries and encouraged the involvement of existing working groups engaged in price statistics;

(i) Decided that the work of the Friends of the Chair group was completed with the submission of its final report.

[12] E/CN.3/2016/9.

47/108
International statistical classifications

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications[13] and expressed its appreciation for the work of the Expert Group, its Bureau and the Statistics Division;

(b) Reconfirmed the role of the Expert Group as the central coordination body for current and future work on all international statistical classifications;

(c) Confirmed that the initiation of any international classification development by international agencies should be coordinated with the Expert Group;

(d) Endorsed the undertaking of a revision of the Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose;

(e) Endorsed the fifth revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories for use as an international statistical classification;

(f) Recognized the need of developing countries for technical assistance in the implementation of the current international statistical classifications.

47/109
Industrial statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization[14] and expressed its support for the work programme on industrial statistics contained in the report;

(b) Called upon developing countries to give high priority to industrial statistics, considering them as an essential data source for the compilation of macroeconomic statistics and other applications, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Requested international and regional organizations to continue and increase the technical assistance activities related to industrial statistics, such as for the implementation of the latest international recommendations, namely, the *International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics*[15] and the *International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production*,[16] and classifications, in a coordinated way, considering also specific country needs and preferences;

(d) Requested development partners to increase assistance for capacity-building programmes on industrial statistics in developing countries, especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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[13] E/CN.3/2016/11.
[14] E/CN.3/2016/12.
[15] United Nations publications, Sales No. E.08.XVII.8.
[16] United Nations publications, Sales No. E.10.XVII.16.

47/110
Information and communications technology statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development,[17] congratulated the Partnership on the excellent work done and expressed support for the continuation of its activities;

(b) Expressed its support for the recommendations made by the Partnership in its report, in particular with respect to a regular review of the core list of information and communications technology (ICT) indicators, the work on disaggregation of the use of ICT by gender, measuring international trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services and national coordination of ICT statistics;

(c) Acknowledged the role of ICT as an enabler for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the ICT sector as a major provider of big data, and recommended in that context that the Partnership develop guidance to improve cooperation with the different stakeholders for the purpose of producing high-quality and timely ICT statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics;

(d) Recommended that efforts be increased to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems in producing ICT statistics;

(e) Requested that the Partnership report back to the Commission in 2018 with a review of the status of official ICT statistics and their integration into the monitoring framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(f) Noted that the Partnership, created to support ICT statistics, may be a useful model for the organization of other partnerships, such as those that are anticipated to emerge in support of the United Nations World Forum on Sustainable Development Data, which will be organized taking into account the synthesis report of the Secretary-General entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet",[18] under the leadership of the High-level Group on Partnerships, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

47/111
Refugee statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the report on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons, submitted jointly by Statistics Norway, the Turkish Statistical Institute, Eurostat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[19] and commended the work undertaken by the group to

[17] E/CN.3/2016/13.
[18] A/69/700.
[19] E/CN.3/2016/14.

explore strategies to improve the compilation and dissemination of refugee and asylum statistics;

(b) Acknowledged the urgent need to build more efficient information systems against the backdrop of a rapidly growing volume of forcibly displaced persons owing to new humanitarian crises;

(c) Took note of the outcomes of the first international conference on refugee statistics, held in Antalya, Turkey, in 2015, at which participants examined various sources of information and addressed the importance of improving the comparability, quality and timeliness of refugee statistics;

(d) Endorsed the recommendation for the establishment of an expert group on refugee statistics, and requested that terms of reference for the group be prepared and submitted to the Bureau of the Statistical Commission for approval at its earliest convenience;

(e) Suggested that the expert group include internally displaced persons in its scope of work, take the users' perspectives into account, refine the statistical concept of refugees and build on existing technical work, such as the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*,[20] and the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing;

(f) Requested that the expert group develop recommendations on refugee statistics, as a reference guide for national and international work concerning asylum statistics, and a refugee statistics compilers manual, as operational instructions on how to collect refugee statistics, in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including migration authorities and offices in charge of registration of displaced persons;

(g) Also requested that the expert group organize a technical meeting on refugee statistics in late 2016, as a follow-up to the first international conference on refugee statistics, to review the progress of the work conducted by the group, and took note of requests from several countries for membership of the group;

(h) Further requested that the expert group conduct a global consultation on the draft recommendations on refugee statistics early on in its existence to solicit comments widely and submit recommendations to the Commission for adoption at its forty-ninth session, in 2018.

47/112
Climate change statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, which summarizes the work done on climate change statistics;[21]

(b) Urged countries to develop and strengthen environment statistics, which are necessary for the effective monitoring of key aspects of climate change;

[20] United Nations publication, Sales No, E.98.XVII.14.
[21] E/CN.3/2016/15.

(c) Urged the international statistical community to expand its regional, subregional and national capacity-building efforts in climate change statistics, in line with the Paris Agreement, adopted by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[22]

(d) Recommended that countries use the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013) to guide the development of climate change statistics and indicators, given the close interrelationship between environment statistics and climate change statistics;

(e) Noted the link between climate change and disaster reduction and requested that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 be considered in the development of climate change statistics and indicators;

(f) Encouraged national statistical systems to invest adequate resources in the development of climate change statistics, in particular the underlying environment, energy, agriculture and industry statistics, and environmental-economic accounts that relate to the climate-economy interface and the physical flow accounts for greenhouse gas emissions;

(g) Urged the donor community to mobilize additional resources to enable capacity-building in environment and climate change statistics in developing countries;

(h) Expressed its appreciation for the work being undertaken by the European Commission for Europe task force on climate change-related statistics and indicators, in particular their efforts to develop a set of climate change-related statistics and indicators, and requested the Statistics Division to review and consider it as a basis for developing a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, applicable to countries at various stages of development;

(i) Requested that climate change statistics appear on the multi-year programme of the Statistical Commission with greater frequency and asked the Statistics Division to develop a workplan for submission to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

47/113
Governance statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the Praia Group on governance statistics for its report[23] and work conducted in an open, inclusive and transparent manner;

(b) Welcomed and expressed its support for the proposed road map and actions to be taken towards the development of a handbook on governance statistics for national statistical offices, stressed the importance of identifying best practices and developing common standards, and requested the Praia Group to report back to the Statistical Commission at its forty-ninth session, in 2018;

[22] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[23] E/CN.3/2016/16.

(c) Welcomed the support of the Praia Group for the relevant development of indicators for targets of Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals;[24]

(d) Encouraged the Praia Group to promote the participation of all countries and to maintain an inclusive and transparent approach to their work;

(e) Encouraged the Praia Group to consider the road map and work derived from it in the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels,[25] presented to the Statistical Commission in 2013;

(f) Stressed the importance of capacity-building and training pertaining to governance statistics.

47/114
Regional statistical development in Western Asia

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the main achievements of statistical development in the region;[26]

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the work undertaken in the region over the past five years since the previous report, especially in regard to improved cooperation and coordination in statistical capacity development and training efforts, and in addressing requests from countries in the region;

(c) Noted the challenges faced by countries in the region, in particular in relation to the new data requirements for the development of Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

47/115
Programme questions (Statistics Division)

The Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, it took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, as set out in an informal background document that had been circulated.

[24] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[25] E/CN.3/2013/11.
[26] E/CN.3/2016/17.

47/116
Information items

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the Economic Commission for Europe High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics[27]

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme interim activities[28]

Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day[29]

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics[30]

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics[31]

Report of the Secretary-General on the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys[32]

Report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics[33]

Report of the Secretary-General on international trade and economic globalization statistics[34]

Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics[35]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[36]

Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the World Bank[37]

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics[38]

Report of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on culture statistics[39]

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices[40]

Report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources[41]

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[27] E/CN.3/2016/5.
[28] E/CN.3/2016/10.
[29] E/CN.3/2016/18.
[30] E/CN.3/2016/19.
[31] E/CN.3/2016/20.
[32] E/CN.3/2016/21.
[33] E/CN.3/2016/22.
[34] E/CN.3/2016/23.
[35] E/CN.3/2016/24.
[36] E/CN.3/2016/25.
[37] E/CN.3/2016/26.
[38] E/CN.3/2016/27.
[39] E/CN.3/2016/28.
[40] E/CN.3/2016/29.
[41] E/CN.3/2016/30.

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information[42]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission[43]

[42] E/CN.3/2016/31.
[43] E/CN.3/2016/32.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of the agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 8 and 11 March 2016. At its 1st meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1) and the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Post-2015 Monitoring (E/CN.3/2016/3). The Commission considered those reports in turn.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 8 March, the Commission heard a statement by the observer for the Philippines, who introduced the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, China, Cuba, Germany, the Russian Federation, Qatar (on behalf of States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council) and the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), as well as by the observers for Thailand (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nauru (on behalf of small island developing States), Bangladesh (on behalf of the least developed countries), Zambia (on behalf of the landlocked developing countries), Colombia (on behalf of States members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States members of the Group of African States) and the Maldives (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States).

3. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made on the report by the representatives of Italy, Sweden, Barbados, Latvia, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Bulgaria, as well as by the observers for Mexico, Ecuador, India, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Algeria, Switzerland, Canada, Cambodia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Belarus, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, France, Suriname and Mongolia.

4. At the same meeting, statements were also made on the same report by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), speaking on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

5. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission also heard a statement under item 3 (a) from the observer for Hungary, who introduced the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Post-2015 Monitoring. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Cuba, Japan, Sweden and the Dominican Republic and by the observers for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Switzerland.

7. At the 2nd meeting, a statement was also made by the observer for FAO, speaking on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

8. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

9. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (a) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/101 above). The Commission took no action on a draft resolution on that sub-item.

10. At the same meeting, and also under item 3 (a), the Commission had before it another draft decision also contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur, which the Commission also adopted, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/102 above).

B. Transformative agenda for official statistics

11. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of the agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 7th meetings, on 8, 9 and 11 March 2016. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the transformative agenda for official statistics (E/CN.3/2016/4). It also had before it for information the report of the Economic Commission for Europe High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2016/5).

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 March, the Commission heard a statement by a representative of the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the transformative agenda for official statistics. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil and the Netherlands and by the observer for Denmark.

13. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 March, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Cuba, the United Kingdom and China and by the observers for Ireland, Suriname, Kuwait, Cabo Verde (on behalf of the States members of the Group of African States), Egypt (on behalf of the States members of ESCWA), Mongolia, Jordan, the Philippines, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangladesh, Timor-Leste, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Australia, Ecuador and Saudi Arabia.

14. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the African Development Bank.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

16. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (b) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/103).

C. Big data for official statistics

17. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of the agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 9 and 11 March 2016. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2016/6) and heard a statement by the observer for Australia, who introduced the report.

18. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Germany, the United States, Cameroon, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Italy, Brazil, China, Latvia and Japan and by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Spain, Egypt, Denmark, France, Morocco, Armenia, Mexico, Malaysia, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania and Portugal.

19. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for FAO, speaking on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

21. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (c) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/104).

D. National accounts

22. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of the agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 9 and 11 March 2016. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2016/7) and heard a statement by the observer for the World Bank, who introduced the report.

23. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 March, statements were also made by the representatives of New Zealand, Germany, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Latvia and by the observers for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nigeria.

24. At the 4th meeting, on 9 March, statements were also made by the observers for Jamaica, Suriname, Egypt, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Belize, Indonesia, Cabo Verde, Morocco and the Philippines.

25. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

26. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (d) of the

agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/105).

E. Environmental-economic accounting

27. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of the agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 9 and 11 March 2016. At its 4th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2016/8) and heard a statement by the representative of the Netherlands, who introduced the report.

28. At the 4th meeting, on 9 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Brazil, Sweden, the Republic of Korea and the United States and by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Samoa (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Switzerland, Morocco, Belize, Norway, Suriname, India and Myanmar.

29. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the European Union, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and FAO.

30. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

31. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (e) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/106).

F. International Comparison Programme

32. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of the agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 9 and 11 March 2016. At its 4th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it the final report of the Friends of the Chair group on the evaluation of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2016/9), and heard a statement by the observer for Austria, who introduced the report. The Commission also had before it for information under the item a report by the World Bank on the interim activities of the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2016/10).

33. At the 4th meeting, on 9 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany, Japan, Barbados, China, Brazil and the Republic of Korea and by the observers for Switzerland, Suriname, the Federated States of Micronesia, Uganda (on behalf of the States members of the Group of African States), Indonesia, Denmark, Mexico, Poland, Egypt, Cabo Verde, Morocco and India.

34. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for ECLAC, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), speaking also on behalf of Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund and ESCWA.

35. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

36. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (f) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/107).

G. International statistical classifications

37. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of the agenda at its 4th, 5th and 7th meetings, on 9, 10 and 11 March 2016. At its 4th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (E/CN.3/2016/11) and heard a statement by the representative of New Zealand, who introduced the report.

38. At the 4th meeting, on 9 March, statements were also made by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Samoa (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States).

39. At the 5th meeting, on 10 March, statements were made on the same item by the representative of the Dominican Republic and by the observers for India, Indonesia, Cambodia and Gambia. Statements were also made by the observers for ECE and the European Commission (Eurostat).

40. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

41. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (g) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/108).

H. Industrial statistics

42. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of the agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. At its 5th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (E/CN.3/2016/12) and heard a statement by the observer for UNIDO, who introduced the report.

43. At the 5th meeting, on 10 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States and the Dominican Republic and by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Ukraine, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria (on behalf of the States members of the Group of African States), Viet Nam, Suriname, Egypt and Timor-Leste.

44. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

45. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (h) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/109).

I. Information and communications technology statistics

46. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of the agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. At its 5th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development (E/CN.3/2016/13) and heard a statement by the observer for the International Telecommunication Union, who introduced the report.

47. At the 5th meeting, on 10 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Sweden, the Russian Federation, Barbados, China and Latvia and by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Haiti, Finland, South Africa, Morocco, the Philippines, Denmark, Egypt, Nigeria, the Sudan, Guatemala and Indonesia.

48. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion. Thereafter, a further statement was made by the observer for South Africa.

Action taken by the Commission

49. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (i) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/110).

J. Refugee statistics

50. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of the agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. At its 5th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it the report of Statistics Norway, the Turkish Statistical Institute, Eurostat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the progress of the work on statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons (E/CN.3/2016/14). The Commission heard a statement by the observer for Norway, who introduced the report.

51. At the 5th meeting, on 10 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Russian Federation, Latvia and the United States and by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan, Cabo Verde, Mexico, India, Jordan, South Africa, Egypt, Suriname, Cambodia, Denmark, Austria, Ukraine, Ecuador and Armenia.

52. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the States members of ESCWA), ECE, OECD, the

International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

53. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

54. At its 7th meeting on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (j) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/111).

K. Climate change statistics

55. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. At its 6th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics (E/CN.3/2016/15) and heard a statement by a representative of the Statistics Division, who introduced the report.

56. At the 6th meeting, on 10 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Sweden, Togo, China, Cameroon, Italy and the Netherlands and by the observers for the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana, Norway, Malaysia, El Salvador, Suriname, Morocco (on behalf of the States members of the Group of African States), Canada, Mongolia and Viet Nam.

57. At the same meeting, a statement was also made on the same item by the observer for ECE.

58. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

59. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (k) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/112).

L. Governance statistics

60. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. At its 6th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a report of the Praia Group on governance statistics (E/CN.3/2016/16) and heard a statement by the observer for Cabo Verde, who introduced the report.

61. At the 6th meeting, on 10 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Sweden, the United States and Japan and by the observers for Egypt, Mexico, Timor-Leste, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Union), India, the Philippines, Ghana, Mongolia, Cambodia, Norway and Portugal.

62. At the same meeting, statements were made on the same item by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat), the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime and OHCHR.

63. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

64. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (l) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/113).

M. Regional statistical development in Western Asia

65. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. At its 6th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the main achievements of statistical development in the region (E/CN.3/2016/17) and heard a statement by the observer for ESCWA, who introduced the report.

66. At the 6th meeting, on 10 March, statements were also made by the representative of Qatar and by the observers for Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Union) and Egypt. Statements were also made by the observers for the European Union and the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

67. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

68. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (m) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/114).

Chapter III
Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 (sub-items (a) to (n)) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016.

2. At the 6th meeting, a statement was made the observer for Mongolia.

A. World Statistics Day

Action taken by the Commission

3. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2016/18).

4. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2016/18) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

B. Demographic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

5. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2016/19).

6. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2016/19) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

C. Gender statistics

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2016/20).

8. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2016/20) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

D. Household surveys

Action taken by the Commission

9. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (E/CN.3/2016/21).

10. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (E/CN.3/2016/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

E. Disability statistics

Action taken by the Commission

11. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on disability statistics (E/CN.3/2016/22).

12. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on disability statistics (E/CN.3/2016/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

F. International trade and economic globalization statistics

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and economic globalization statistics (E/CN.3/2016/23) and the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2016/24).

14. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and economic globalization statistics (E/CN.3/2016/23) and the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2016/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

G. Coordination of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

15. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2016/25).

16. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2016/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

H. Statistical capacity-building

Action taken by the Commission

17. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the World Bank on

selected efforts to support statistical development in member States (E/CN.3/2016/26).

18. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the World Bank on selected efforts to support statistical development in member States (E/CN.3/2016/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

I. Environment statistics

Action taken by the Commission

19. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2016/27).

20. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2016/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

J. Culture statistics

Action taken by the Commission

21. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on selected activities of its culture statistics programme (E/CN.3/2016/28).

22. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on selected activities of its culture statistics programme (E/CN.3/2016/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

K. Price statistics

Action taken by the Commission

23. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2016/29).

24. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2016/29) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

L. Statistics for economies based on natural resources

Action taken by the Commission

25. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources (E/CN.3/2016/30).

26. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources (E/CN.3/2016/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

M. Integration of statistical and geospatial information

Action taken by the Commission

27. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2016/31).

28. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2016/31) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

N. Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Action taken by the Commission

29. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2016. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2016/32).

30. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2016/32) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/116).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of the agenda at its 7th meeting, on 11 March 2016, and, in that context, heard an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.

Action taken by the Commission

2. At the 7th meeting, the Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, as set out in an informal background document that had been circulated (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/115).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of the agenda at its 7th meeting, on 11 March 2016. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by a representative of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2016/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2016-2020 (E/CN.3/2016/33).

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session, as outlined in document E/CN.3/2016/L.2, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its forty-eighth session be held from 7 to 10 March 2017 (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. Also at its 7th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2016-2020 (E/CN.3/2016/33).

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of the agenda at its 7th meeting, on 11 March 2016.

2. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.3/2016/L.3), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made on the text of the draft decisions by the representatives of New Zealand, China, Barbados, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and by the observers for India, Turkey, Uganda, Botswana, Mexico (on behalf of the States members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean states), Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nigeria, Indonesia, Myanmar, Algeria, Suriname, Egypt, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, Samoa (on behalf of the small island developing States), South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Switzerland, Bangladesh and Côte d'Ivoire.

4. At the same meeting, statements were also made on the text of the draft decisions by the observers for the State of Palestine, the European Commission (Eurostat) and the Caribbean Community.

5. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its forty-seventh session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Chair made a statement.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 11 March 2016. The Commission held seven meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 24 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance were observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2016/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 8 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Wasmália Barata Bivar (Brazil)

Vice-Chairs:
Zachary Mwangi Chege (Kenya)
Gyeongjoon Yoo (Republic of Korea)
John Pullinger (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Rapporteur:
Aija Zigure (Latvia)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 8 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2016/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
   (b) Transformative agenda for official statistics;
   (c) Big data for official statistics;
   (d) National accounts;
   (e) Environmental-economic accounting;
   (f) International Comparison Programme;
   (g) International statistical classifications;
   (h) Industrial statistics;

(i) Information and communications technology statistics;

(j) Refugee statistics;

(k) Climate change statistics;

(l) Governance statistics;

(m) Regional statistical development in western Asia.

4. Items for information:

(a) World Statistics Day;

(b) Demographic statistics;

(c) Gender statistics;

(d) Household surveys;

(e) Disability statistics;

(f) International trade and economic globalization statistics;

(g) Coordination of statistical programmes;

(h) Statistical capacity-building;

(i) Environment statistics;

(j) Culture statistics;

(k) Price statistics;

(l) Statistics for economies based on natural resources;

(m) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

(n) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

5. Programme questions (Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional programme of work and timetable of the session (E/CN.3/2016/L.1).

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at its forty-seventh session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; the European Free Trade Association; and the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its forty-seventh session are available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session.

16-04570 (E) 110416

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Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2016
Supplement No. 5

E/2016/25-E/CN.9/2016/9

Commission on Population and Development

Report on the forty-ninth session (17 April 2015 and 11-15 April 2016)

United Nations • New York, 2016

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

The forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 April 2015 and from 11 to 15 April 2016. Its special theme was "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda".

The Commission considered the report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2016/2), which detailed the work of organizing the session. The Commission also considered five reports of the Secretary-General and a note by the Secretariat.

The report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/3), prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provides an overview of the current demographic evidence base and emphasizes the need to strengthen capacity to support the review of the Sustainable Development Goals. An overall message is that the achievement of the Goals will depend critically on the availability of reliable, accessible and timely evidence on demographic patterns and trends for all countries.

The report of the Secretary-General on programmes and innovations to strengthen the demographic evidence base for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.9/2016/4), prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), highlights the experiences of countries in strengthening the demographic evidence base. It identifies key shortfalls in national data systems that need to be addressed in order for countries to fulfil the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and the Programme of Action.

The report of the Secretary-General on monitoring the flow of financial resources to support the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/5), prepared by UNFPA, discusses trends over time in both donor and domestic funding. It describes the challenges in producing precise and reliable estimates on the relevant flows from available data and recommends that the Commission review and provide guidance on future reports.

The report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2016/6), prepared by the Population Division, provides an overview of global demographic trends. The world's population was 7.3 billion in 2015 and is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, with most of the increase occurring in Africa and Asia. There is a great diversity in recent population trends and expected future trajectories across countries and major geographic areas, driven primarily by differences in levels of fertility. While some countries will experience a decline in population size between 2015 and 2030, in others the population will increase by over 50 per cent. A difficulty for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda is that much of the population growth between 2015 and 2030 will be concentrated in countries facing the largest challenges in ending poverty and hunger and ensuring health, education and equality for all.

The Commission also reviewed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2015: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs" (E/CN.9/2016/7) and took note of the proposed strategic framework for 2018-2019 for subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (see E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1). The report of the Secretary-General reviews the activities and outputs of the Population Division, focusing on its contributions to the global demographic evidence base, as well as its secretariat's support of intergovernmental processes, including the annual sessions of the Commission.

The note by the Secretariat on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/8), prepared by the Population Division in consultation with Member States, UNFPA and others, provides an overview of the current functioning and methods of work of the Commission. It presents the findings from the consultation process and puts forward a set of recommendations to strengthen the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Economic and Social Council.

On 11 April, the Commission heard a keynote address on the theme "The demographic evidence base and indicators for the 2030 Agenda: a global overview", delivered by the National Statistician of the Philippines and co-Chair of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, Lisa Bersales. On 12 April, the Commission heard a keynote address on the theme "Integration of traditional and new data sources and technologies: from censuses to big data" by Andrew Tatem, Professor at the University of Southampton, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Each keynote address was followed by an interactive discussion moderated by the Chair. The keynote speakers emphasized that population data, per se, include critically important indicators for the review of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that many other indicators require population data as inputs. In addition, population trends are intertwined with many aspects of sustainable development.

The Commission also held an interactive panel discussion on the theme "Uses of the demographic evidence base for development policy and programme planning and monitoring", moderated by Bill Miller, of Global Connections Television, and with the following panellists: Eduardo Clark, Office of the President of Mexico; Vladimir Shkolnikov, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany; John Ssekamatte, National Planning Authority, Uganda; and Ann Starrs, Guttmacher Institute, United States of America.

On 14 April, the Commission heard a statement by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe). The Vice-President noted that understanding population dynamics is central to ensuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The review of the Commission's methods of work was important, especially in the light of General Assembly resolutions 68/1 and 70/1, in which the functional commissions were called upon to contribute to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council.

The major outcomes of the forty-ninth session of the Commission were a draft resolution on the Commission's future organization and methods of work, proposed for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, and a resolution on the special theme of the forty-ninth session.

In addition, the Commission decided that the theme of its fiftieth session would be "Changing population age structures and sustainable development", and that the theme for its fifty-first session would be decided in 2017, pending the decisions on the theme of the Economic and Social Council for 2018 and on the cycle of review of the Sustainable Development Goals in the high-level political forum. The Commission agreed on the provisional agenda for its fiftieth session and approved the draft report on its forty-ninth session.

The significance of the forty-ninth session of the Commission is twofold. It was the first time that the Commission had reviewed its methods of work in the past decade; the review was conducted soon after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the Commission focused for the first time in its modern history (since 1994) on chapter XII of the Programme of Action by considering the importance of demographic evidence for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the review of the 2030 Agenda.

While reaffirming the Commission's mandate to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action, Member States affirmed that the Commission would contribute to the review of the 2030 Agenda within its existing mandate. Member States also affirmed that the resolutions and decisions of the Commission would be negotiated and that relevant non-governmental organizations and civil society would make an important contribution to the work of the Commission. Member States decided that the Commission might further review its methods of work in view of the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda.

Member States reiterated that the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated demographic data was essential for planning and implementing policies and programmes to achieve the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. They emphasized the importance of the 2020 round of censuses and urged Governments to make special efforts to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics and health information systems, as well as national capacities to conduct household surveys.

Furthermore, Governments were encouraged to adopt open-data policies allowing for the dissemination of public-use, geo-referenced and anonymized microdata from various sources, with respect for confidentiality. In addition, National authorities were advised to leverage new data sources, including big data, and technology to improve the efficiency of data collection, processing and dissemination.

Member States called upon the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on population and development and to pursue further improvements in the accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data. They called on UNFPA to continue its work on assisting countries in strengthening the demographic evidence base.

[29 April 2016]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2015/252 of 22 July 2015, in which it decided that the Commission on Population and Development should review the functioning of its methods of work at its forty-ninth session, in 2016, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995 and its decision 2005/213 of 31 March 2005, as well as Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/1 of 10 May 2006 and decisions 2004/2 of 26 March 2004 and 2005/2 of 14 April 2005 on the methods of work of the Commission,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly called for the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions, and emphasized the need to strengthen the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recalling Council resolution 1981/83 of 24 July 1981, in which it instructed its subsidiary bodies to rationalize their agendas and programmes of work, resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982, in which it recommended that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council be rationalized in order to enable them to effectively implement the mandates entrusted to them, and decision 1983/163 of 22 July 1983 with regard to the integration or consolidation of documents that deal with related or similar themes, with a view to rationalizing documentation, without having a negative impact on their technical quality, as necessary,

Recognizing the key role that the Council plays in achieving balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and the key actions for its further implementation,[2]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which it was decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and a revitalized Population Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, in which the Assembly decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda,

Emphasizing the breadth of experience of non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation and the need to continue to promote their effective participation in and valuable contribution to the work of the Commission on Population and Development, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and the key actions for its further implementation[2] as well as the outcomes of its reviews, takes note of the outcome documents of the regional review conferences on population and development, and stresses that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014 for each region that adopted the particular outcome document;

2. *Also reaffirms* the primary mandate of the Commission on Population and Development, derived from General Assembly resolution 49/128, in which the Assembly decided that the Commission would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and would advise the Economic and Social Council thereon;

3. *Further reaffirms* the central role of the Commission in coordinating the review and assessment of the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, including addressing gaps and challenges to implementation;

4. *Affirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] within its existing mandate, and that the Commission's contribution should reflect the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as their interlinkages;

5. *Decides* that the Commission will streamline its agenda and programme of work by consolidating agenda items and rationalizing related documentation and reports without having a negative impact on their technical quality, with a view to enabling the Commission to effectively perform its mandate and to increasing complementarity and avoiding duplication;

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

6. *Also decides* that the Commission shall continue its current practice of selecting one special theme for each annual session on the basis of progress, gaps, recurrent challenges and evolving issues relevant to population and development based on the Programme of Action and the key actions to accelerate its further implementation, while also taking into account the 2030 Agenda, with a view to fully implementing all of its mandated tasks and contributing to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including by building synergies and, in the context of its working methods, as appropriate, taking into account the thematic annual focus of the Council and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 68/1, as part of a multi-year work programme;

7. *Further decides* to include under the item of the general debate two sub-items, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels, and one focusing on the special theme of the Commission;

8. *Encourages* all Member States, in their statements in the general debate, to give emphasis to national and regional experiences, achievements, challenges and lessons learned;

9. *Notes* the contribution of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and reaffirms that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, they should continue to be given the opportunity to actively participate in the work of the Commission;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to convene expert meetings and informal technical briefings on the special theme prior to each annual session of the Commission;

11. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission to make all efforts to improve communication with Member States by, inter alia, circulating the minutes of its meetings in a cumulative form to the members of the respective regional groups within 10 days of the meeting;

12. *Affirms* that the resolutions and decisions of the Commission will be negotiated, and that the outcome of the discussions on the special theme will continue to contain substantive and action-oriented recommendations for furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and encourages the Bureau to take the necessary steps in this regard;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of regional groups nominating their representatives as early as possible, and no later than the last day of an annual session, so that the election of members of the Bureau for the next session at the closure of the current session can proceed on schedule, thereby facilitating the active participation of all Bureau members throughout the process of preparing for the next session;

14. *Encourages* the regional commissions of the United Nations to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission, in collaboration, where appropriate, with other intergovernmental organizations, especially regional organizations, and other United Nations entities;

15. *Reaffirms* the complementary roles of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund, within their existing mandates, in supporting the efficient work of the Commission;

16. *Decides* that the Commission may, at the request of Member States, further review its methods of work in view of the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its fiftieth session*

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session;[4]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.[5]
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session
3. General debate:
   (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
   (b) Special theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission based on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation.

* For the discussion, see chap. VIII.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 5* (E/2016/25).

[5] In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213 of 31 March 2005, the Commission, immediately following the close of its forty-ninth session, held the first meeting of its fiftieth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2016: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the period 2018-2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolution and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2016/1
Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

The Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[6] and the key actions for its further implementation,[7] and previous resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

Recalling also the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit Outcome[8] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[9]

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[10]

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[11] and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[12] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[12] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[13] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[14] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[15] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[16] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[17]

Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, and is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the United Nations Millennium Declaration[18] and the 2005 World Summit

[8] General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[10] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[11] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[12] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[14] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[15] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[16] Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.
[17] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[18] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Outcome, and that it is informed by other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,[19]

Taking into consideration the report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level,[20] and recognizing that the availability of, and access to, high-quality disaggregated data is essential for measuring progress towards and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and should achieve sustainable development,

Reaffirming also that sustainable development is a central goal in itself, and that sustainable development, in its economic, social and environmental aspects, constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of the United Nations,

Reaffirming further that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, stressing that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities, and stressing also that population and sustainable development policies and the collection and utilization of data therein should respect human rights and the empowerment of women and girls, without distinction of any kind,

Stressing the importance of protecting the achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development and of responding to progress, gaps, recurrent challenges and evolving issues relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment, acknowledging that the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation have laid a foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action will contribute significantly to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that will leave no one behind,

Acknowledging the largest generation of adolescents and youth in history, cognizant that different demographic trends and age structures have a direct impact on their lives and have various impacts on development, depending upon circumstances in each country and upon the size of investments required to ensure the health and development of current and future generations, and recognizing the evolving capacities, needs and contributions of and challenges for adolescents and youth, and that classifications and definitions of age groups vary in accordance with each country's national legislation,

Emphasizing that population issues are interlinked with sustainable development at the subnational, national, regional and global levels, which requires a multi-stakeholder and international approach, and acknowledging the need to integrate population dynamics and the use of population data into development

[19] General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.
[20] A/70/684.

planning, including its implications for human rights, dignity, quality of life and poverty eradication, at all levels, in order to achieve sustainable development, with a particular focus on the needs of the poorest and those in vulnerable situations,

Noting that additional funding is required to meet current costs and emerging needs in the area of AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as reproductive cancer screening and treatment,

Recognizing that ill-health and deaths related to malaria, Zika virus disease and other vector-borne diseases throughout the world, particularly among women, children, adolescents and youth, can be substantially reduced with political commitment and commensurate resources if the public is educated and sensitized and appropriate health services are made available, particularly in countries where these diseases are endemic,

Recognizing also that health is a precondition for economic and social development, and aware that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and to the achievement of global, regional and national commitments for sustainable development,

Recalling the specific challenges faced by women and girls in humanitarian settings, including an increased risk of physical and sexual violence, reduced access to essential health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, education and other social services, and recognizing the importance of high-quality data collection in humanitarian settings, with respect for confidentiality,

Acknowledging the important link between migration and development, and recognizing that migration brings both opportunities and challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants and to the global community, and recognizing also the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants effectively, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children,

Aware that migration has increased in volume, scope, complexity and impact since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and that migration is an intrinsic feature of a globalizing world in which economic, social, cultural, demographic, political and environmental factors all play an important role,

Stressing that reliable, timely, high-quality, accessible and disaggregated demographic data need to be a central focus of any effort to strengthen statistical systems for the review of and follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and for reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and stressing also the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data and statistics disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts for policy formulation by all countries,

Noting the importance of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors in advancing the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, including through current mechanisms and the exploration of new data sources and technologies for data collection,

Noting also that countries will be implementing the 2030 Agenda from different starting points with regard to levels of fertility, mortality and urbanization and the

number of persons entering the older age range and eventually needing support of various kinds, and that national strategies should take account of these demographic realities in order to determine the resources required to achieve the 2030 Agenda,

Stressing that population and housing censuses are designed to generate valuable disaggregated statistics and indicators for assessing the situation of women and men and various population groups, such as boys and girls, adolescents and youth, older persons, local communities, indigenous peoples and populations of African descent, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons, and changes therein,

Acknowledging that household surveys have served as a major source of data for development planning and policy decisions, and that the demand for data from household surveys will increase in order to assess the progress, gaps and challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda,

Noting that further progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and other sustainable development goals, and responses to challenges relevant to population and development at the regional, national and local levels, will require special efforts to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics, and health information systems, as well as censuses, household surveys, population registers and other relevant administrative data sources, and to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms to generate, analyse and disseminate high-quality, qualitative and quantitative, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated demographic data from all available sources, with respect to confidentiality, as needed, to monitor progress and ensure accountability,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda[21] and the report of the Secretary-General on programmes and innovations to strengthen the demographic evidence base for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[22]

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[6] and the key actions for its further implementation,[7] as well as the outcomes of its reviews, takes note of the outcome documents of the regional review conferences on population and development, and stresses that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014 for each region that adopted the particular outcome document;

2. *Also reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

3. *Stresses* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, as well as the Beijing Declaration and

[21] E/CN.9/2016/3.
[22] E/CN.9/2016/4.

Platform for Action,[9] is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, promote, protect and respect human rights, and achieve sustainable development, and also stresses that population dynamics are all important for development, including for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[23] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[24]

4. *Recognizes* the need to address persistent inequalities and discrimination on any grounds, which hamper the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, especially for people in vulnerable situations;

5. *Reiterates* that the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated demographic data is essential for planning and implementing policies and programmes to achieve the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, and for the measurement of progress, gaps and recurrent challenges in implementation, in order to ensure that no one is left behind;

6. *Urges* Governments to monitor their progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional, national and local levels, and in this regard to make special efforts to strengthen their civil registration, vital statistics and health information systems, and to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms to generate, analyse and disseminate high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated population data from all available official data sources, including population censuses, civil registration, household surveys, population registers and other relevant administrative records, with respect for confidentiality, for the formulation and implementation of sustainable and inclusive population and development policies that respect, promote and protect human rights and aim at the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

7. *Stresses* that of all administrative data, health-related data are among the most critical to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and to the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and urges Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen health management information systems;

8. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, including of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries in addressing gaps and challenges relevant to population and development and the changing development environment through technical assistance and capacity-building in order to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation;

9. *Stresses* that population and housing censuses for a country as a whole and for each administrative area therein are one of the primary sources of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at, inter alia, inclusive sustainable development, poverty eradication, and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

[23] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[24] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme[25] for the planning and evaluation of development programmes, especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and calls for full-fledged support for the Programme by Member States and the international community;

11. *Urges* Governments to strengthen systems for the universal, reliable and timely registration of births, marriages, divorces and deaths, among other vital events, for linking the registration of vital events with the production of vital statistics and for assessing and improving over time the coverage, timeliness and accuracy of data generated by such systems, and to promote the use of civil registration for collecting information on causes of death, in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases established by the World Health Organization;

12. *Urges* all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[14] to preserve the child's identity, including nationality, name and family relations, as recognized by law, reminding States of their obligation to register the birth of all children without discrimination of any kind, including late birth registration, and to ensure that registration procedures are universal, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective and provided at minimal or no cost, in accordance with target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals, of providing legal identity for all;

13. *Stresses* the importance of collecting and disseminating data disaggregated by sex and statistics on the minimum set of gender indicators, such as unpaid care and domestic work, labour force participation and other indicators of social and economic status, and participation and leadership in political and economic life and the core set of indicators on violence against women and girls adopted by the Statistical Commission in 2013, including on harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and encourages the Commission to continue to support the implementation of a robust, transformative, inclusive, transparent and ambitious indicator framework for monitoring progress towards sustainable development;

14. *Stresses* the importance of and encourages data collection, analysis and dissemination on adolescents to fill critical data gaps and inform effective policy development, including by fully utilizing disaggregated data and statistics;

15. *Encourages* Governments to collect, analyse and disseminate data on women over 49 years of age and girls between 10 and 14 years of age, with due consideration to the confidentiality principle and professional ethics, to fill critical data gaps and inform effective policy development;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated qualitative data, research and analyses to complement quantitative population data, based primarily on official data sources, that are essential for evidence-based policy development, monitoring, review and follow-up;

17. *Stresses* that Governments should strengthen national capacities to conduct household surveys, and encourages all data producers to implement existing standards and practices of data management, in particular legal and ethical standards and safeguards for the protection of confidentiality and privacy rights, including with respect to documentation, dissemination and archiving;

[25] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/10.

18. *Urges* Governments, where relevant, to promote the development of populations of African descent, local communities and indigenous peoples, including by implementing public policies, establishing standards and creating institutions to guide and implement policies, plans and programmes at the sectoral level, and stresses the importance of disaggregated data collection and analysis for the implementation of these policies;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions, as appropriate, to enhance their capacity and cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and refugee flows and on the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, in particular women and girls, in countries of origin, transit and destination, and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

20. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and other organizations to strengthen the collection and dissemination of data on ageing and older persons, in order to adopt a life cycle approach, and on persons living with disabilities;

21. *Urges* national authorities to leverage new data sources, including big data, and technology to improve the efficiency of data collection, processing and dissemination, to institute geo-referencing as a standard practice in all forms of demographic data collection, and to make the corresponding spatial datasets publicly available in digital form, with respect for confidentiality;

22. *Encourages* Governments to adopt open-data policies allowing the dissemination of public-use, geo-referenced and anonymized microdata from censuses, household surveys, civil registration, population registers, health information systems and other relevant administrative records, with respect for confidentiality;

23. *Reiterates* that demographic data are a public good and that the collection of such data is underfunded, especially in developing countries, reaffirms the commitment in the 2030 Agenda to support developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices, other relevant government institutions and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, encourages developed countries, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to provide technical and financial support, upon request, and encourages North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to strengthen national capacities to implement best practices of data management, including identifying needs related to population statistics, to help to develop sustained systems of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis in order to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data;

24. *Urges* Governments to strengthen health systems, in particular health information systems, to promote physical and mental health and well-being and extend life expectancy for all, and achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care to ensure that no one is left behind, to accelerate the progress made to date in reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality by ending all such preventable deaths before 2030, to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, to accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, Ebola virus disease, Zika virus disease and other communicable diseases

and epidemics, including by addressing growing antimicrobial resistance and the problem of neglected diseases affecting developing countries, and to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases, including behavioural, developmental and neurological disorders, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development;

25. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacities to monitor progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and the 2030 Agenda at the global, regional, national and subnational levels by improving the collection, dissemination and utilization of data and statistics disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, keeping in mind the need to apply a gender perspective from population censuses, civil registration, household surveys, population registers and other relevant administrative records;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of building and sustaining partnerships with regard to the collection, dissemination and use of demographic data and capacity-building among Governments, relevant civil society stakeholders and private sector actors, in particular academia and small and medium-sized enterprises, including for the successful, participatory and transparent review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and the 2030 Agenda, and invites all Governments, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to support these activities;

27. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account population trends and projections in national rural and urban development strategies and policies, as well as the strengthening of capacity for data collection at the local and subnational levels, and in this context looks forward to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito in October 2016;

28. *Acknowledges* the role played by civil society organizations, including women and youth groups, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, and encourages their active participation and contribution in the review of progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action and in the follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda;

29. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and in partnership with other stakeholders, to develop initiatives aimed at improving the demographic evidence base at the national level, including through regional and South-South cooperation and triangular and North-South cooperation, in order to assist Member States in mainstreaming the consideration of population issues in national development strategies and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

30. *Calls upon* Governments and United Nations agencies, as appropriate, to actively support increased capacity and participation of young people in the use of population data, taking into account gender equality and representation of youth of various backgrounds, to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people;

31. *Calls upon* the United Nations Population Fund to continue to play a crucial role, within its mandate, in assisting countries to strengthen the demographic evidence base, on the basis of their needs and in consultation with them, to enable countries to achieve the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives contained in the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and in the 2030 Agenda;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on population and development, including on the interactions between population dynamics, inequalities and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, to pursue further improvements in the accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia, and, in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant organizations outside the United Nations, civil society and academia, to continue to assess and report on progress towards the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Decision 2016/101
Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2017 and 2018

The Commission on Population and Development decides:

(a) That the special theme for its fiftieth session, in 2017, shall be "Changing population age structures and sustainable development";

(b) To postpone the decision on the special theme for its fifty-first session, in 2018, until its fiftieth session pending the decisions of the Economic and Social Council on its annual theme for 2018 and on the cycle of review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[26] by the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Decision 2016/102
Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-ninth session**

The Commission on Population and Development takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2015: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs";[27]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs.[28]

[26] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
** For the discussion, see chap. VI.
[27] E/CN.9/2016/7.
[28] E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1.

Chapter II

Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, "Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", at its 2nd meeting, on 11 April 2016. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on programmes and innovations to strengthen the demographic evidence base for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.9/2016/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring the flow of financial resources to support the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/5).

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 April, introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Demographic Analysis Branch of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and the Director of the Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Germany and the Russian Federation.

Keynote addresses and panel discussions

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 April, the Commission heard a keynote statement on the theme "The demographic evidence base and indicators for the 2030 Agenda: a global overview", which was delivered by Lisa Bersales, Professor and Chief Statistician of the Philippines and co-Chair of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Ms. Bersales emphasized that population data were critically important, as many of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets required population information as inputs, and that trends in demographic indicators were intertwined with many aspects of socioeconomic development. The Commission then engaged in an interactive discussion in which the representatives of Uganda and Japan, as well as the observers for the Sudan and the League of Arab States, participated.

8. At its 4th meeting, on 12 April, the Commission heard a keynote statement on the theme "Integration of traditional and new data sources and technologies: from censuses to big data" by Andrew Tatem, Professor, University of Southampton, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Mr. Tatem discussed how the use of new data sources, including household surveys, satellite and geographic information system data and cell phone data, could be used to complement censuses and other traditional data sources for mapping and monitoring many of the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The representatives of Germany, the United States of America, Japan and the Russian Federation, as well

as the observers for Cuba, Guinea, Afghanistan and Togo, participated in the interactive debate following the keynote presentation. The interactive debates following the keynote statements were moderated by the Chair of the Commission, Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota.

9. At its 6th meeting, on 13 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Integrating population issues into sustainable development", with the participation of the following panellists: Eduardo Clark, Office of the President of Mexico; Vladimir Shkolnikov, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany; John Ssekamatte, National Planning Authority, Uganda; and Ann Starrs, Guttmacher Institute, United States. The discussion was moderated by Bill Miller, of Global Connections Television. Panellists pointed out that data used for the review of the 2030 Agenda should be easily accessible and freely available, and that capacity-building in the analysis and use of the data had to be strengthened. The representatives of Uganda, the United States, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as well as the observers for Cuba and the Sudan, participated in the interactive discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2017 and 2018

10. At its 9th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2017 and 2018" (E/CN.9/2016/L.4), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

11. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 2016/101).

Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

12. At its 9th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission had before it the text of a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations and circulated in English only.

13. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Nigeria made a statement.

14. The Chair made a statement and informed that the Secretariat had not had enough time to assess any budgetary implications of the draft resolution, which would therefore be prepared and provided to the Economic and Social Council at the time of its consideration of the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2016/1), as orally revised.

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), South Africa, Brazil, the United States, Norway and Malaysia, as well as by the observers for

Qatar, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

17. The co-facilitators of the informal consultations on the special theme of the session and on the special themes for 2017 and 2018, Nadine Skale, Vice-Chair (Germany), and Franklyn Fawundu (Sierra Leone), made statements.

Chapter III

General debate on national experience in population matters: strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda

18. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, "General debate on national experience in population matters: 'Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda'", at its 3rd to 7th meetings, from 11 to 14 April 2016. Inputs to the discussion included statements submitted by non-governmental organizations[29] (E/CN.9/2016/NGO/1-20).

19. At its 3rd meeting, on 11 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Uganda (on behalf of the Group of African States), the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria, Mexico, Zambia, South Africa, the United States, Brazil, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Pakistan, Mongolia and the Netherlands, as well as the observers for Thailand (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Honduras, Afghanistan, Poland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, India, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, the Niger, Qatar and Finland.

20. At its 4th meeting, on 12 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Belarus, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel and Denmark, as well as the observers for Lebanon, Canada, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Swaziland, Maldives, Botswana, Togo, Turkey and Cabo Verde.

21. At its 5th meeting, on 13 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Uruguay, China, Belgium, Japan, Jamaica, Malaysia, Switzerland, Norway, Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Russian Federation, Uganda and Argentina, as well as the observers for Ukraine, the Sudan, Tunisia, Suriname, Nepal, Morocco, Cameroon, Cuba, Italy, Jordan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Sweden, France, Malawi and South Sudan.

22. At its 6th meeting, on 13 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Peru, Romania and Liberia, as well as the observers for Costa Rica, Azerbaijan, the Federated States of Micronesia and Ghana. In addition, it heard statements by the observers for the Holy See, the State of Palestine and the League of Arab States. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Labour Organization.

23. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants and Stichting dance4life.

24. Statements in the exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

[29] Only non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or accredited to the forty-ninth session of the Commission were permitted to participate in the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

25. At its 7th meeting, on 14 April, the Commission heard statements by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, International Federation for Family Development, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, Stichting Rutgers WPF, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Education Fund, Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, Fundación para Estudio Investigación de la Mujer, Poverty Elimination and Community Education Foundation, World Young Women's Christian Association, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Franciscans International, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, World Youth Alliance, Fertility Education and Medical Management Foundation, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development and International Federation of Medical Students' Associations.

Chapter IV

General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme for the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council, on "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving commitments to results"

26. The Commission jointly considered item 5 of its agenda, "General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the Economic and Social Council theme in 2016 on 'Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results'", and item 7 of its agenda, "Review of the functioning of the methods of work of the Commission", at its 7th meeting, on 14 April, and heard an address by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter V

Review of the functioning of the methods of work of the Commission

27. At its 7th meeting, on 14 April, the Commission considered item 7 of its agenda, "Review of the functioning of the methods of work of the Commission". The Chief of the Migration Section of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced a note by the Secretariat, as contained in document E/CN.9/2016/8. The Commission then heard statements by the representatives of Peru, Argentina, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) and China, as well as the observers for Indonesia, Maldives and Cuba. The representatives of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean also made statements.

Action taken by the Commission

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 7

28. At its 7th meeting, on 14 April, the Commission had before it the text of a draft resolution entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development", submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations and circulated in English only.

29. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement to inform that the Secretariat had not had enough time to assess any budgetary implications of the draft resolution, which would therefore be prepared and provided to the Economic and Social Council at the time of its consideration of the draft resolution.

30. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A). The representative of Brazil made a statement.

Chapter VI
Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

31. At its 8th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission held a general discussion on item 6 of its agenda, "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population". It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2016/6);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2015: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs" (E/CN.9/2016/7);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1).

32. At the same meeting, the Commission heard introductory statements by the Chief of the Population Estimates and Projections Section and the Senior Population Affairs Officer in the Office of the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

33. Statements were made by representatives of the United States, Germany, China and Japan. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa also made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 6

34. At its 9th meeting, on 15 April, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of a number of documents submitted under agenda item 6 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 2016/102).

Chapter VII
Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

35. At its 9th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2016/L.2) and its revisions.

36. At the same meeting, the co-facilitators of the informal consultations on the Commission's methods of work and on the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission, Oana Rebedea, Vice-Chair (Romania), and Iara Beekma Reis (Plurinational State of Bolivia), made statements.

37. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda, as revised (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VIII
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

38. At its 9th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission adopted the draft report on the forty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2016/L.3) and authorized the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Ebrahim Alikhani (Islamic Republic of Iran), to finalize it, in consultation with the Secretariat.

Chapter IX
Organization of the session

A. Opening, closing and duration of the session

39. The Commission on Population and Development held its forty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters on 17 April 2015 and from 11 to 15 April 2016. The Commission held nine meetings (1st to 9th).

40. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 April 2016, the session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota (Zambia), who also made a statement.

41. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

42. During the closing of the session, at the 9th meeting, on 15 April 2016, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Chair made statements.

B. Attendance

43. The session was attended by 46 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and 2 non-Member States, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended.[29] The list of delegations is available in document E/CN.9/2016/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

44. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 17 April 2015 and 11 April 2016, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota (Zambia)

Vice-Chairs:

Nadine Skale (Germany)
Ebrahim Alikhani (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Patricia Chemor Ruiz (Mexico)
Oana Rebedea (Romania)

45. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 April 2016, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Ebrahim Alikhani (Islamic Republic of Iran), to serve also as Rapporteur for the session.

46. At the same meeting, the Chair designated the Vice-Chairs, Nadine Skale (Germany) and Oana Rebedea (Romania), as well as Franklyn Fawundu (Sierra Leone) and Iara Beekma Reis (Plurinational State of Bolivia), as facilitators for the informal consultations.

D. Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

47. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair introduced the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2016/2).

48. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the report of the Bureau.

E. Agenda

49. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2016/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda".
5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the Economic and Social Council theme in 2016 on "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results".
6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
7. Review of the functioning of the methods of work of the Commission.
8. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission.
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

50. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2016/L.1).

F. Documentation

51. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-ninth session is available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2016/index.shtml.

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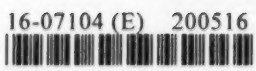

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